

Geology Lecture Series

7 p.m. Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Spokane Community College
Lair-Student Center Auditorium

1810 N Greene Street, Spokane, Washington

Landslides of the Pacific Northwest

by

Dr. Scott Burns
Professor of Geology
Portland State University

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Presentation

Landslides play an important role in our geological lives throughout the Pacific Northwest. Many landslides are caused by climatic events such as large amounts of rainfall or snowmelt. Large earthquakes also trigger landslides. Dr. Burns will talk about the many landslides generated during the climatic events of 1996 and what can be learned from them. He will talk about landslides in the Columbia Gorge, including the northwest's most studied slide, the Bridge of the Gods Slide (or Bonneville Slide) and some of the new ideas about its cause. He will have many photos of the second largest landslide in US history to affect homes, the Kelso Slide, in Kelso, Washington. Finally, he will have comments about the general "lack" of landslides from the Nisqually Earthquake earlier this year.

Speaker

Dr. Scott Burns has been teaching geology for 31 years, with past positions in Switzerland, New Zealand, Washington, Colorado and Louisiana. Dr. Burns is presently at Portland State University where he has consistently been one of the most popular professors for the last 11 years. Scott specializes in environmental and engineering geology, geomorphology, soils, and Quaternary geology. Along with his many graduate students, Dr. Burns is presently researching topics such as landslides and land use, slope stability, environmental cleanup, earthquake hazard mapping, radon generation in soils, Missoula Flood paleosols, the distribution of heavy metals in soils, along with alpine soil development. He has authored over 90 publications, has had over 25 research grants, and has won many awards for his outstanding teaching abilities.

He is renowned for getting students excited about geology! Scott is proud of being a sixth generation Oregonian and is always thrilled to talk about Pacific Northwest geology.



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